

# Inner City Press

September 9, 2024

By E-mail to Chambers

Hon. Lewis A. Kaplan, United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007

Re: Press opposition to sealing or redaction of identities in Caroline Ellison's letters of support and other sentencing redactions in US v. Bankman-Fried, et al., 22-cr-673 (LAK)

Dear Judge Kaplan:

Inner City Press has been covering the above captioned criminal case and earlier today saw defendant Ellison's request to redact the identities of those submitting letters of support for sentencing, and other information. The request for secrecy should not be granted.

Such information is routinely made available in sentencings in this court. The public has a right to know the information submitted in connection with sentencing, and the identity of the submitters.

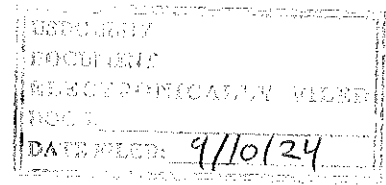
Documents submitted to a court for consideration in connection with sentencing are judicial documents entitled to the First Amendment right of access. *United States U. Alcantara*, 396 F.3d 189, 199 (2d Cir. 2005).

"Representatives of the press must be given an opportunity to be heard on the question of their exclusion from a court proceeding, and we have recognized a similar right of news media to intervene in this Court to seek unsealing of documents filed in a court proceeding." *Trump v. Deutsche Bank AG*, 940 F.2d 146, 150 (2d Cir. 2019).

"The common law right of public access to judicial documents is firmly rooted in our nation's history." *Lugosch v. Pyramid Co. of Onondaga*, 435 F.3d 110, 119 (2d Cir. 2006).

Please docket this challenge to the proposed withholding of suretor information, as this Court did on similar requests to unseal defendant Bankman-Fried's suretors, our Dkt 31 and also Dkt 40, cited in Order Dkt 41 setting response time-line, and as SDNY Judges Hellerstein, Castel, Furman and others have done. See, e.g., <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.nysd.516151/gov.uscourts.nysd.516151.85.0.pdf>

Inner City Press: In-house SDNY: Room 480, 500 Pearl Street, NY NY 10007  
E-mail: [Matthew.Lee@innercitypress.com](mailto:Matthew.Lee@innercitypress.com) - Tel: 718-716-3540  
Regular Mail: Dag Hammarskjold Center, Box 20047, New York, NY 10017



If appropriate, PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Inner City Press and its undersigned reporter, in personal capacity, will move this Court before Honorable Lewis A. Kaplan, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York, at a date and time directed by the Court, for entry of an order granting permission to be heard on sealing or unsealing of the sentencing and other information in the sentencing of Caroline Ellison in US v. Bankman-Fried, et al., 22-cr-673 (LAK).

Please act on, and docket, this request, as soon as possible before the sentencing.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Matthew Russell Lee, Inner City Press

cc: anjan.sahni@wilmerhale.com, nicolas.roos@usdoj.gov